Withdrawal of Minimum Guarantee from Private Public Call Offices Madras

190. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for withdrawal of Minimum Guarantee from private Public Call Offices, Madras have been received;

(b) whether Government are reviewing the issue in view of public interest involved; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue was reviewed recently and the minimum guarantee amounts were reduced for small and medium sized stations. The minimum guarantee amount which was Rs. 500 per month for all stations, has been revised with effect from April, 1989, as under:

Rs. 500 per month for Metropolitan and Major Telephone Districts, i.e. systems above 30,000 lines.

Rs. 300 per month for Minor Telephone Districts, i.e. systems with equipped capacity between 10,000 and 30,000 lines.

Rs. 200 per month for Telecommunication circles i.e. exchanges of less than 10,000 lines.

In case of Private Public Call offices in Madras the minimum Guarantee amount will thus continue to be Rs. 500 per month. As of now there is no proposal for a change, but the policy will be reviewed from time to time.

Problems of ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust

191. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust who were absorbed in Government services in India after partition, due to non counting of their past service for the purposes of retirement benefits;

(b) whether Government are reviewing their cases in view of the small number of such staff; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Pensionary entitlements of displaced persons from Pakistan are regulated according to the Rules in force at the relevant time. At the time of partition, service rendered in Local/Autonomous Bodies was not being counted and treated as pensionable service under the Government. Therefore, in the case of displaced persons, the reciprocal arrangement with the Government of Pakistan did not provide for the counting of the premigration service in Local and Autonomous bodies like Port Trusts for pensionary benefits. In view of this, the ex-employees of Karachi Port Trust are not entitled to count their past service for pensionary benefits after migration to India.

Reviewing the policies on curtailment of postal services

192. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :